

IAF

CONNECTIONS

The Latest News from the Inter-American Foundation

IN THE NEWS

IAF Helps Launch Border Partnership

A recently established U.S.-Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership will make \$20 million available to fight poverty on both sides of the border.

The Partnership, a coalition of 9 national and regional foundations and 20 community foundations, was announced on March 17. The IAF, a founding member, is a leading donor to Mexican development organizations along the border.

The Partnership's goal is better living conditions by rooting development efforts in local participation and cross-border collaboration. "This partnership is an historic event," said Enrique Suárez of Fundación Comunitaria de la Frontera Norte (FCFNAC), a Partnership member and IAF grantee. "Two very different countries come together to address common critical needs through a philanthropic network. Mexico and the U.S. assume shared responsibility."

Donors will contribute \$10 million, which will be matched by the border community foundations for projects to build and strengthen organizational leadership and local grant making programs. The IAF has committed \$3 million a year for three years for border projects. Other donors include the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Ford Foundation, Fundación Gonzalo Río-Arronte, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Houston Endowment, McCune Charitable Foundation, Meadows Foundation and Mott Foundation. For more information log onto <www.borderpartnership.org>.



FCFNAC's Enrique Suárez (right) with representatives from former grantee, FECHAC, and other Partnership participants.

Synergos

IAF's GDF Spans the Globe

The Grassroots Development Framework (GDF), the IAF's instrument for measuring the tangible and intangible results of projects, has been widely adopted, most recently by Oxfam Canada in Africa. Oxfam Canada's Raymond Genesse first came across the GDF in November 1997 at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) in Brighton, England. Genesse, who was on his way to Ethiopia, was at IDS to research ways to fine tune a development project in the Horn of Africa.

According to Genesse, the GDF provided a platform for better informed and more structured dialogue with stakeholders in Africa and in Canada, enabling them to clearly measure progress. Indicators such as local resource mobilization, adaptability, organizational relationships, and legislative influence proved effective "eye openers" for many civil society organizations and stimulated a learning process and behavior changes. Organizations from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan incorporated a number of the IAF's performance indicators into self-assessment processes. For more on the GDF, log onto <www.iaf.gov>.

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Combining Productivity and Environmental Protection

More than 95 percent of São Paulo's Atlantic rainforest has been destroyed by decades of deforestation and settlement. The fragmented nature of the remaining patches hinders the free movement of animals, putting their survival at great risk. Many plant species are also threatened due to lack of birds and other pollinators.

Under a cooperative agreement between the IAF and Boticário Foundation for the Protection of Nature, O Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas (IPÊ) is working to reverse the dangerous effects of forest fragmentation with a project that is creating ecological islands to act as green "trampolines" between forest sections.

In order to make the plan economically viable for farmers, IPÊ is also planting income-generating organic coffee crops along with native trees. Laury Cullen, director of IPÊ, explained that farmers welcome the greenery in their hot, dusty terrain, where temperatures commonly hover around 100 degrees Fahrenheit. The trees, aside from serving as biodiversity trampolines, also provide shade for the coffee plants and human residents. The coffee, harvestable after two years, offers sustainable income for farmers and an opportunity to learn and practice environmentally sound agriculture.

Other project sponsors include Ashoka and Instituto Florestal de São Paulo da Secretária Estadual de Meio Ambiente. This four-year project will use \$100,000 to establish tree nurseries, purchase certified organic coffee plants and offer technical assistance and training to farmers. -By IAF intern Megan Savage

Corporate Responsibility Research Initiated

On February 7, IAF grantee Instituto Ethos, in partnership with the International Finance Cooperation (IFC) and SustainAbility, an English organization, launched a study analyzing 240 environmentally and socially sustainable business cases in 60 emerging markets. IAF projects included in the study were from Brazil, POEMA; Venezuela, Quebrada Azul; the Dominican Republic, Helados Bom; Mexico, Grupo Bimbo. Corporate Foundation Network members from Brazil included Odebrecht Foundation and Acesita Foundation. For the complete list of projects by country see: <www.sustainability.com/developing-value>.

PHOTOS

IAF grantee Comité de Promoción Social del Valle del Yaqui, A.C. (PROVAY), a non-profit civic association located in the State of Sonora, Mexico, is working in collaboration with the Municipality of Cajeme, Sistema para el Desarrollo Integral de la Familia, Fundación del Empresariado Sonorense, and Fundación de Apoyo Infantil, to improve living conditions for low-income families by building ecological homes for families earning a minimum wage (approximately US\$2,460 a year). The photos below, by Mark Caicedo, show different stages of construction.



Upcoming Events

First Latin American Summit on Local/Regional Development and Decentralization

-Organizing Committee: IAF, Diputación de Barcelona, High-Level Inter-American Network on Decentralization, Local Government and Citizen Participation, Centro de Estudios para el Desarrollo Regional (CEDER), Municipal Government of Arequipa and Macro Región Sur

-Date: June 9-12, 2003

-Location: San Agustín University, Arequipa, Peru

-Contact: Carlos Leyton Muñoz, Coordinator, CEDER, Arequipa, Peru, E-mail cleyton@ceder.org.pe, Phone (51-54) 289405, Fax (51-54) 282887 Web site <www.ceder.org.pe>

Corporate Foundation Network General Assembly and Coordinating Committee

-Organizing Committee: IAF and Mexican Center for Philanthropy (CEMEFI)

-Date: June 23-26, 2003

-Location: Cancun, Mexico

-Contact: Juan Felipe Cajiga, Coordinator, CEMEFI, E-mail empresa@cemefi.org, Phone (52) (55) 5277 6111, Fax (52) (55) 5515 5448

IX Inter-American Mayors Conference "The New Municipality: Concertation and Governance for Citizen's Well-being"

-Organizing Committee: Institute for Public Management and Community Service at Florida International University and the Municipality of Miami-Dade

-Date: June 24-26, 2003

-Location: Miami, Florida

-Contact: Cristina A. Rodríguez-Acosta, Assistant Director for International Programs, Florida International University, Institute for Public Management and Community Service, E-mail lagierc@fiu.edu, Phone (305) 348-1271, Fax (305) 348-1273

2003 National Council of La Raza NCLR Annual Conference

-Organizing Committee: NCLR and Latino Expo, USA

-Date: July 12-15, 2003

-Location: Austin, Texas

-Contact: Pedro Cavallero, International Projects Coordinator, National Council of La Raza, E-mail, pcavallero@nclr.org, Phone (202) 776-1773, Web site <www.nclr.org>

Grantee Awards

Brazil

IAF grantee Poverty and Environment in the Amazon (POEMA) in Brazil won the inaugural Trust for the Americas/Organization of American States (OAS) award for corporate social responsibility in Miami last January. For a full description of POEMA's partnership with DaimlerChrysler see the winter 2002 edition of the newsletter.

Ecuador

Four former IAF grantees were nominated to serve as cabinet ministers of the new government in Ecuador. Luis Macas was named as Agriculture and Livestock Minister; Nina Pacari, as Foreign Relations Minister; Luis Maldonado as Social Welfare Minister and Doris Solis as Tourism Minister. All played key roles in several IAF funded development projects in the past.

Mexico

Pati Ruiz Corso, co-founder of a former IAF grantee, Grupo Ecologico Sierra Gorda, an environmental conservation NGO in Mexico, received the Rolex Award for Enterprise on February 21. Officials from the Mexican Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), a number of Mexican and Swiss business leaders and the Swiss ambassador attended the award luncheon, sponsored by the Swiss-Mexican Chamber of Commerce in Mexico City. Ruiz Corso, selected from 1,600 nominees from around the world, has worked with Sierra Gorda for more than 16 years.

The IAF awarded the environmental NGO a two-year grant in 1999 to carry out an environmental education program and to develop small enterprise in the Sierra Gorda Bio-Reserve in the state of Querétaro, Mexico. Also present at the luncheon was Steve Knaebel, IAF advisory council member and president and general manager of Cummins Diesel S.A. de C.V. in Mexico, which has also supported Sierra Gorda.

The Inter-American Foundation (IAF) is an independent agency of the United States government that provides grants to non-governmental and community-based organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean for innovative, sustainable and participatory self-help programs. The IAF primarily funds partnerships among grassroots and nonprofit organizations, businesses and local governments, directed at improving the quality of life of poor people and strengthening participation, accountability and democratic practices. To contribute to a better understanding of the development process, the IAF also shares its experiences and the lessons it has learned.

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Conferences

Zacatecas, Mexico Immigrants Convention, Dallas, Texas, March 28-29

Jill Wheeler, IAF representative for Mexico, and Alexis Smith, staff assistant for Mexico, met with representatives of clubs and federations of migrants to the U.S. from Zacatecas, Mexico. This fourth annual event hosted by the Zacatecan Federation of Northern Texas, also drew representatives from Virginia, Illinois and California. Participating organizations, many already providing support for social and infrastructure projects in their hometowns, discussed new methods to improve living conditions and job opportunities there. Wheeler presented the IAF's approach to transnational development at a working group called "Public, Private and Non-Profit Alliances for Community Development."

Instituto para o Desenvolvimento do Investimento Social (IDIS) Annual Conference, São Paulo, Brazil, April 1

President David Valenzuela spoke on the effects of globalization on community development at this event. The conference theme, "Social Pact and the Role of Private Social Investment in the Community: Challenges and Trends," examined the roles of community, philanthropists, and private social investors in finding sustainable ways to meet development goals.

IAF grantee IDIS is a Brazilian non-profit organization that promotes private social investment as a tool to achieve fair and sustainable development. Log onto <www.idis.org.br> for more information.

Workshops and Meetings

On January 27, IAF staff discussed grassroots development and the newly established Corporate Foundation Network (CFN) with private sector representatives in São Paulo, Brazil. Judy Morison, IAF representative for Brazil, and Ramon Daubón, vice president for programs, described the IAF's philosophy of working with base

groups. Walter Price, director of corporate programs, and Rodrigo Villar, IAF corporate programs consultant, discussed how corporations could join the CFN. Corina Ferrer of Minetti Foundation shared her experience working with the IAF and the CFN.

Representatives from World Childhood Foundation, Scania Latin America, Instituto Holcim, Instituto Cidadania Empresarial, Fundação Orsa, Bahema Participações, Serpal Eng. E Construção Ltda, Instituto Camargo Corrêa, Instituto Alcoa, Votorantim, Didier Levy Corretora, Legionários de Cristo, Amaral Gurgel Advogados, Banco Indusval S.A, Serpal Eng. E Construção Ltda and Itaú industries attended.

Executive director Dr. Jurema Werneck of CRIOLA, an Afro-Brazilian women's organization and IAF grantee, spoke at a Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Symposium on "Human Cloning and Genetic Modification: The Challenge To Social Justice, Human Rights and the Environment," on February 25.

Nineteen grantee groups met in Guatemala City on March 18 to share methodologies for training beneficiaries in micro-credit, agriculture techniques and health care. Rosa Maria Cruz, IAF's Local Liaison, organized the meeting.

Roland Gutierrez, IAF consultant, discussed his report on projects dealing with local development, remittances and gender with more than 50 grantees in El Salvador on March 25. The report analyzes IAF projects related to local development and remittances and other donor funding on gender. IAF's Ramon Daubón, Kaye Pyle, Eduardo Rodriguez-Frias and Heidi Smith also attended.

Carlo Dade, IAF representative for Haiti and the Dominican Republic, organized a one-day "Dialogue on Transnationalism," sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation and the City University of New York's Center for the Study of Philanthropy on March 20. Twenty-five representatives of New York area foundations, local immigrant and diaspora organizations, local government officials and international funders discussed community development in transnational communities. IAF's Ramon Daubón, Jill Wheeler and Kaye Pyle also attended.

Presentations

Angel Vidal, director of Delnet, an Internet-based course on local development run by the International Labor Organization, spoke to the Foundation on February 25. Several IAF grantees have taken the online course and are applying lessons to their projects. Vidal announced new classes to start in May. Log onto <www.itcilo.it/delnet> for more information.

Former IAF fellow Agueda Marín-Hernández presented information to the Foundation on February 27 on the trafficking of persons in Central America. Marín-Hernández, a project officer for the International Organization for Migration based in Costa Rica, also discussed her recent co-edited book on oral histories of migrant workers in the Pacific Northwest. See *Voices From the Woods: Lives and Experiences of Non-Timber Forest Workers*, available online at <<http://pwcfc.org/vitw.html>>

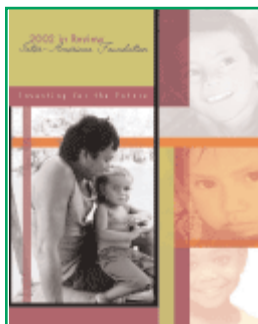
Marnie Schilken, former director of Fundación Chol-Chol para el Desarrollo Humano, an NGO in southern Chile that serves 46 Mapuche communities with programs in health, education, and micro-enterprise development, spoke to the IAF on April 16. Schilken described how this local NGO transformed its service delivery program into a community-based public health and development initiative.

Dr. Thomas Carroll, a professor at George Washington University and an expert in grassroots development, presented his new book on Ecuador to the IAF on April 22. *Construyendo Capacidades Colectivas: Fortalecimiento Organizativo de las Federaciones Campesinas-Indígenas en la Sierra Ecuatoriana*, includes stories and experiences from various IAF projects and grantees.

Richard Davis, Kettering Foundation resident international fellow, discussed grassroots work with Maori people and other ethnic minorities in New Zealand on April 30.

On May 21, Marie Price, a professor at George Washington University, discussed Bolivian migrants living in the U.S. with IAF staff interested in transnational community development. Roughly half of all the Bolivians living in the U.S. are located in the Washington D.C. area.

IAF Publications



Beyond the IAF newsletter, *IAF Connections*, the IAF publishes an annual report, the *Grassroots Development* journal, and special thematic studies. IAF publications can be ordered free by e-mailing your full postal address to <publications@iaf.gov>. Supplies are limited; orders will be filled on a first-come-first-served basis. The most recent IAF publications available are:

- * IAF's Annual Report for 2002 was printed in English and is accessible on-line.

- * The 2002 *Grassroots Development* journal, volume 23 number 1, was posted on the Web in Portuguese.



- * *Economic Development in Latin American Communities of African Descent* is now available on the Web and in print in English, Spanish and Portuguese while supplies last.



Citizen Participation Study

Researchers, donors and academics met in Mexico City, March 17-20 to discuss tentative conclusions from a study on "Deliberation and Citizen's Participation." The IAF co-sponsored the 18-month study with the Council on Public Policy Education, the Inter-American Democracy Network, the Kettering Foundation and Partners of the Americas. It analyzed the connection between deliberation and citizen's participation and sustainable local development.

All ten case studies, selected from seven countries-Brazil, Paraguay, Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Mexico-varied in objectives, size, areas and beneficiary populations, but had evidence of deliberative and participatory practices. The study is scheduled to finish in June, and final conclusions will be presented at the Kettering Foundation in Dayton, Ohio, in September.

Media Round-up

With widespread distribution of the critically acclaimed Brazilian film *Cidade de Deus*, (City of God) problems of youth violence in the *favelas* of Rio de Janeiro have reached large international audiences. Coincidentally, on January 19, *The Guardian*, an English daily, published, "Where children rule with guns," by Luta Pela Paz from a sub-project of IAF grantee Viva Rio. (Available on-line at <www.observer.co.uk/international/story/0,6903,877986,00.html>.) Also British anthropologist Luke Dowdney, a volunteer with Viva Rio since 1997, was cited in *The Economist*, a news magazine, on the state of Rio's *favelas* on May 10. (See <www.economist.com> for full article.) Viva Rio is working to provide technical assistance to women cooperatives and to establish three technology-based business centers in the Brazilian *favelas*.

On February 14, Viva Rio launched the book *Children of the Drug Trade - A Case Study on Children in Organized Armed Violence in Rio de Janeiro*, written by Dowdney to emphasize the effect of violent crimes on community members and beneficiaries. Dowdney concluded "Young people in the city of Rio de Janeiro are more likely to die from gunfire than in some regions of the world that are currently at war... 3,937 children under the age of 18 died from firearms related injuries in Rio between 1987 and 2001...more than eight times the 467 Israeli and Palestinian children killed during the same period." For more information from the book log onto <www.vivario.org.br>.

Informative Web Sites

Nim Po't's Web site is selling hundreds of Guatemalan textiles. It has a consignment store that provides a retail museum showcase for hundreds of indigenous suppliers, and claims to house the world's largest retail Maya textile collection. Log onto <www.nim-pot.com/index.asp> for more information.

On February 12, the 2002 UN International Migration Report was released. This report contains country-specific data on migration and information on remittance flows. For the report online, please log onto <www.unpopulation.org>.

Fair Trade Coffee, mentioned in the previous newsletter, has coffee, chocolate, chocolate covered coffee beans, and tea available to order on-line. Log onto <www.fairtradecoffee.org>.

The Latin American Network Information Center Web site, maintained at the University of Texas at Austin, is designed to facilitate research and academic endeavors in Latin America and the Caribbean. It has an investment forum, an electoral monitoring page, a full text collection of speeches by Latin American leaders and much more. Log onto <www.lanic.utexas.edu>.

Association for Women's Rights in Development is the largest international organization, after the UN, promoting gender equality. Its mission is to facilitate information and encourage policy change that will give women a more equal status in society. This Web site offers an e-mail forum for young women subscribers; various articles on women's rights and the gender digital divide; and a list of feminist development organizations. Log onto <www.awid.org/index.pl>.

Staff Activities

Wilbur Wright, IAF representative for Peru and Ecuador, and Carolyn Karr, IAF's general counsel, met with the First Lady of Ecuador, Dra. Ximena Bohórquez on April 10, at the Ecuadorian Embassy. On April 24, Wright spoke to the Fair Trade Forum in Boston.

Carolyn Karr spoke to the OAS's Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development on "Trading Debt for Development: National Endowments for Social Actions" on March 18.

Jim Adriance represented the IAF at the White Water to Blue Water Donor Meeting at the Smithsonian on March 9. This initiative, established at the World Summit on Sustainable Development by the U.S. Departments of State, Commerce and Agriculture, and the governments of England and Spain, is working with the United Nations Environmental Program on an approach to a sustainable use of water in the Caribbean Basin.

Audra Jones, IAF representative for Argentina and Venezuela, spoke on the panel "Micro Credit and International Development: Does it work?" at the Council of Foundations annual conference in Dallas, Texas, on April 28-30. David Valenzuela and Carolyn Karr hosted a breakfast to discuss IAF's work in the Americas.

In April, Kevin Healy, IAF representative for Panama and Honduras, lectured on Andean development at The Johns Hopkins Uni-

versity's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, the Smithsonian Museum of American Indians in Washington D.C. and at the University of Iowa's Latin American Studies Program. Healy is the author of *Llamas, Weavings, and Organic Chocolate: Multicultural Grassroots Development in the Andes and Amazon of Bolivia* (Notre Dame Press: 2001). He also made presentations to the Foreign Service Institute and Ohio State University's Latin American Studies and Rural Sociology departments in May.

New Call for Proposals

In April, the IAF launched its 2003 call for proposals with a new simplified grant application now available online in PDF and Word formats. The application consists of a basic data sheet, a narrative section and a formatted budget. Applications in Spanish, Portuguese, English, French or Haitian Creole will be accepted in two cycles this year. They end on July 31 and December 31 respectively. Please log on to the IAF Web site <www.iaf.gov> for specific details.

NEW - The IAF Grassroots Development Framework (GDF), the principal data collection instruments used to register grant results, is now available in Creole as well as in English, Spanish and Portuguese online at <www.iaf.gov>.

New Faces

Board and Advisory Council

The IAF welcomes Jorge A. Bustamante, a Mexican expert on international migration and Eugene Conley Professor of Sociology at the University of Notre Dame, to the advisory council. The IAF board and advisory council met on April 25 in Washington, D.C.

Where they are now?

Annie Pforzheimer, a former IAF program assistant for the Caribbean, is now the political officer at the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador.

In Memory

Paul Bell, IAF's vice president for operations from 1971-1975, died on May 16 in San Jose, Costa Rica. Bell also served as Peace Corps Director in several countries from 1964-1971 and 1977-1980. In 1983, he joined the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance as the Senior Regional Advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean. Through Bell's work, more than 32,000 Latin Americans were trained as first responders.